

# What is KETS?

Kentucky has one of the top public school computer systems in the country. It allows and encourages EVERY school to purchase and install computers and provides fast Internet access throughout the state.



## When did it start?

The plan for KETS started as a result of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). In fact, KETS was one of KERA's key foundation blocks: "A modern educational system **REQUIRES** that students have an up-to-date computer system to gather information and communicate. Using computers and other technologies effectively is one way to engage Kentucky's students in authentic work tasks ... which will prepare them to meet the challenges of the 21st Century."

## How does it work?

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) provides state funds—matched with local funds—and guides your local school district in making good technology choices. Local school districts plan where equipment will be placed and how it will be used in the district. Districts and schools have autonomy in deciding the most effective use of the technology purchases for their students.

## Technology Standards for Everybody:

- **TEACHERS and ADMINISTRATORS:** Kentucky has established teacher technology standards and is in the process of doing the same for school administrators.
- **STUDENTS:** The state is incorporating effective uses of technology into major curriculum documents and holding state and regional meetings to promote technology integration. Businesses, Community Colleges, and KDE have developed student technology standards to ensure Kentucky students can succeed!



# What you should look for in your child's school . . .

- Your child should have access to computers and time to develop technology skills. Computer use should improve learning in ALL content areas and help create products that demonstrate learning.
- Each school's consolidated plan should include a technology component to determine software selection, computer distribution, and professional development.
- Computers should be equitably distributed throughout your child's school and used in EACH classroom—in addition to computer labs and the library.
- The work your child does at school on a computer should be displayed.
- All teachers should be using technology, not just the "computer" teacher or a few specialists.
- There should be abundant evidence that teachers participate regularly in technology professional development.
- Administrators should model and encourage the effective use of technology.
- Your school should have "rules" regarding your child's use of the internet and email (this is called an AUP or Acceptable Use Policy). You and your child should have BOTH signed an AUP.
- Your child's school should have an active Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP). This program should be open to ALL students. STLP involves students in a wide variety of authentic tasks and community partnerships. For more information on STLP you may visit <http://www.kde.state.ky.us/oet/customer/stlp>.
- Technology should play an active role in MANY aspects of school life (e.g., school web sites, computer demonstrations by students, students providing technological services to the community, etc.).

